

OEXA 82-1171

23 APR 1982

RECORDED

MEMORANDUM FOR:

LA/DDO

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VIA : Chief, Legislative Liaison Division

FROM : Legislative Liaison

SUBJECT : House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence  
Request on Central America

1. Attached is a 22 April New York Times article on arms infiltration into El Salvador. On 21 April, Assistant Secretary of State Thomas Enders stated before the Inter-American Affairs Subcommittee of the House Foreign Affairs Committee that the Cubans are using drug trafficking as a guise for running arms for guerrillas in Central America. This article caught Staff Director Thomas Latimer's attention. On what evidence is Mr. Enders' statement predicated? It may be worthwhile to marshal this evidence in the event that the Staff wishes to review this material.

2. Dick Giza has asked to review HUMINT reporting on Nicaraguan exile activity from February to the present. Since other staffers are also interested in reviewing this material, Mr. Giza has requested that these documents be made available on the Hill. This should not be a long, drawn out affair since the Staff is conversant with the subject matter. It would be most convenient to set this up before next Thursday, 29 April.

3. My records indicate that LA Division has two transcripts from HPSCI hearings on Central America. On 16 March, the 9 December and February 10 transcripts were forwarded to [redacted] and have not yet been returned to this office. Please hand carry these documents to LLD as soon as possible so that we can return them to the Committee.

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4. Thanks for your assistance.

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Attachment

ALL PORTIONS OF THIS MEMORANDUM  
ARE SECRET

Distribution:

Original - Addressee

1 - [redacted] PCS/PGLD  
1 - OEXA Subject  
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LLD:

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THE NEW YORK TIMES, THURSDAY, APRIL 22, 1982

# Salvador Arms Flow Continues, Enders Says

By BARBARA CROSSETTE  
Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, April 21 — Thomas O. Enders, Assistant Secretary of State for Inter-American Affairs, told a House subcommittee today that Nicaragua was "engaged in a campaign of destabilization" in El Salvador. He said that "substantial levels" of arms were continuing to enter that country.

He also said that the United States had evidence for the first time that Cuban intelligence authorities were using drug trafficking as a guise for turning guns for guerrillas in Latin

America. Referring to charges of Cuban involvement in the case of a Colombian narcotics dealer, Jaime Guillot Lara, now in custody in Mexico, he said, "Until now we have tended to think of Cuba as peripheral on the drug issue."

Both Cuba and Nicaragua have denied that they made recent shipments of arms to El Salvador. Today, Nicaragua made another plea through its Ambassador in Washington, Francisco Filios Navarro, for a meeting between Nicaragua and the United States to discuss all issues outstanding between the two nations. Mr. Enders said

that the Administration would respond promptly to the request.

Mr. Enders told the House Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Inter-American Affairs that the results of the March 28 election in El Salvador "destroyed the myth that Central America is moving inexorably leftward."

He took issue with the view pressed by opponents of Administration policy that only negotiations with guerrilla forces could stem total left-wing victories in the region. "The argument has been, co-opt the left before it's too late," Mr. Enders

said. "That analysis has been proven incorrect, but another has been proven right — that is, that if only given the opportunity to choose, Central Americans will choose democracy over authoritarianism, and reform over revolution."

He added that the Administration did not believe that Roberto d'Aubuisson, the leader of the most extreme right-wing party who now commands a coalition outnumbering the centrist Christian Democrats, had any "immediate prospect" of becoming President of El Salvador.

Testimony Is Wide-Ranging

In testimony ranging over the hemisphere as Congress debates the budget request for military assistance for fiscal 1983, Mr. Enders and Francis J. West, Assistant Secretary of Defense

for International Security Affairs, also made these points:

• The United States has no more than 61 military trainers in Honduras and 54 in Salvador and that number is unlikely to change. The United States has acknowledged that there were 55 trainers in Honduras at one point in March but says that number was unusually high.

• Uruguay will return to a democratic system of government "within the next two years." Mr. Enders said that Uruguay was headed for an election in 1983 and that "human rights violations had largely ceased."

• The Administration is in the process of negotiating only "modest upgrading of a few airfields" in Honduras for use in American search and rescue operations as well as for emergency landings

of planes from United States aircraft carriers in the area. No negotiations are in progress with Colombia, the officials said.

• The United States is discussing with El Salvador a new framework for investigating the deaths last year of two American men working on land redistribution in El Salvador. The Administration is prepared to offer the technical assistance of the Federal Bureau of Investigation in solving the crime.

Michael D. Barnes, the Maryland Democrat who is chairman of the subcommittee, warned Mr. Enders at the start of today's hearing that the Administration's Caribbean Basin Initiative, which the Administration considers important to the democratic development of the region, was in danger.